

January 7, 1999

Ms. Kimberly Popper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
HFD 21
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Ms. Popper:

I am writing to urge you and your associates not to withdraw 4-aminopyridine (4-AP) from pharmacies which compound it (Such as College Pharmacy in Colorado). It's bad enough that insurance won't reimburse use of it, but now we MS patients are faced with the possibility of not being able to obtain a drug which has clear benefits.

I was diagnosed with MS fourteen years ago. At the time of my diagnosis 4-AP was not available. Several years ago my neurologist recommended that I try 4-AP to help with nerve conduction. The difference has been remarkable. I am still fighting fatigue from time to time, but I feel my 4-AP is like a shot of caffeine and really helps me function much better than before I started to take it. I have tried other MS drugs to help with the fatigue, but nothing else has worked as well.

It seems to me to be the height of arrogance not to make this drug available. My neurologist at Evanston Hospital (Dr. Sarah Neely) assures me that the drug has helped many of her patients with MS. Why not let the patient and his/her doctor evaluate the use of this drug which can be so helpful?

Sincerely,



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